

Right to Information Act and Administrative Reforms



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Introduction

Dr. Manmohan Singh, Former Union Finance Minister and at present Prime Minister of India aptly remarked that overall, the country faces a crisis of governance and there is an urgent need to modernize the Indian states at all levels to make it more effective and more caring about the welfare of our people. Fortunately, recent advances in modern science and technology, particularly advances in information, communication and biotechnology make it possible, as never before in human history, to leapgorf in the race for the social and economic change. The problem is that we do not know the exact nature of crisis which can be provided by Right to Information in different states and Union Government. Central Information Commission may collect all the information given to people, compile and analyse it. Such an effort would generate material essential, for changes in Organizational Structure and Management.

Meaning of Right to Information

The original root of the word 'Information' is the Latin word 'Intormore' which means to fashion, shape or create, to give, form to. Information is an idea that has been given form, such as the spoken or written world. It is a means of representing an image or thought so that it can be communicated from one mind to another rather than worrying about all the information afloat in that world, we want to know it's having ideas and learning to deal with issues that are important not accumulating lots and lots of data. The act specifies that citizens have a right to request any information taker copies of documents, inspect documents, works and records, take certified samples of materials of work, obtain information in form of printouts, diskettes, floppies, tapes, video cassettes

or in any other electronic mode or through print-outs.

Objectives

The following objectives cover all aspects can help in making organisation and system of public administration scientifically, which are as follows:

- Administrative reforms must ensure the adjustment of the administrative structure to socio-economic changes.
- Administrative services must be studied continuously in the search for greater efficiency and economy of public expenditure.
- To restructure the administrative system in a way that would permit a well coordinated development effort.
- To eliminate an institutionalised corruption from each substratum.
- Development of better administrative laws and regulations to replace laws based on outmoded ideas and concepts.
- Improvement of organisational plans to clarify objectives, improve-structures and define responsibilities and relationships.
- Development of improved investigative and disciplinary practices to check abuses of public laws, misuse of government resources and violation of government ethics.
- To install methods, systems and procedures in an organisation that will not only increase efficiency but also reduce costs at all levels.

Problems in Administration

There are certain other factors which appear as a threat to administration and result in inefficient, irresponsive and insensitive administration.

1. Factors Responsible for Inefficient Administration

One of the basic cause for the increasing inefficiency in different fields of administration is the lack of proper recruitment. Recruitment is the corner-stone of the whole public personnel structure. Unless, recruitment policy is soundly conceived, there can be little hope of building a first rate staff.

2. Inefficient Planning

For the successful working of the administration and for timely achievement of goals and redressal of grievances, a sound planning is a must and lack of it results into inefficiency, delay as is the present state of administrative machinery. Today, our administrators neither have their vision - broad nor are their priorities clear to them.

3. Attitude-Aptitude of the Administrator

Attitude and aptitude problems also lead to inefficiency in the administration. The bureaucrats today lack the attitude and aptitude required for their job. They have gone highly politicised and corrupt. They have lost the faith in the common man.

4. No Time Management

An administration which cannot keep pace with time can never be efficiency, responsive and sensitive. Time mismanagement is another measure problem which leads to inefficiency. To begin with judiciary is the last example which shows this fact with a heap of its pending cases due to lack of accountability and vigilance.

5. Red-tapism and Corruption

The root cause for the declining political system and inefficient administration is red-tapism and corruption. More than 80% of the administrative officials are bitten by the virus of corruption. The delay in moving the files, resolving of public grievances and non-accessibility to officers has encouraged red-tapism and corruption out of sheer necessity.

Reforms in Administrative Problems through RTI Act

1. Helps in overall Administrative Improvement Questions under RTI Act were asked about the socioeconomic development of Panchayats under various schemes. The answers revealed a lot of misutilisation of money. This made the people to improve the administrative system to get the full advantage of Government schemes for rural de-

velopment. This needs to be replicated to other Panchayats. The purpose of UTI should be to improve administrative system which stands in the way of Development.

2. Remedial Measure to contain Corruption

Corruption is anti-development. RTI can help in identifying the methodology and practice of corruption, e.g. Bombay University through RTI was found wanting in affiliating an institute to award MBA degrees, etc. without fulfilling necessary requirements.

3. Procedural Reforms

RTI Act can help in finding out as to what is the wrong with the procedures, e.g. in Haryana, Haryana Urban Development Authority has become a den of corrupt practices due to wrong procedures. Even to get a map of house cleared may take months. Nothing can be done without money.

4. Citizens-Friendly Administration

Complaints under RTI revealed in Maharashtra that the Posting and transfers are done through letters written by politicians to fleece the people through them. The Action against police officers is being taken and this would slowly make the police administration answerable to the people.

5. RTI Act can Expose Top Leadership

Information received through RTI Act, 2005 in Union and State Commissions reveal that personnel at top level are responsible for many ills in administration. The principle of seniority in posting is causing many problems. Only competent people practicing some ethical standards and who have faith in discharging their duties honestly must be put on jobs at higher levels. They can set the tone of administration under their control.

6. Delays in Administration

Many of the complaints filed under RTI Act related, to delays especially in settling service conditions, etc. some are intentional delays to promote corruption while otherwise there are problems in procedural practice. Based upon the information generated, the Government should change the procedures which stand in the way of responsive administration, e.g. privatizing ticket reservation in Railways can remove delays and intentional corruption.

7. Keep the Administration System Active

RTI Act, 2005 is expected to keep the civil services active through feed-back of the people through information sought by them. Information asked by the people can also help the civil servants in ascertaining the satisfaction of the people. Based upon these questions asked in the form of information can help in generating administrative reforms.

Conclusion

We can thus conclude with the remarks that Right to Information Act is revolutionary and practical and can be used directly and indirectly

for Administrative reforms and improvements which impede the process of Development. Right to Information would provide Open Surgery to Administration and make efforts to improve the health of the administrative system. Till now these were causing roads blocks for development; If implemented in right earnest, Right to Information Act would optimize the use of resources. Right to Information and Administrative reforms are two sides of the same coin.

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